

REMARKS

Claims 21-42 are pending in the present Application. No claims have been amended or added, leaving Claims 21-42 for further consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 21-25 and 27-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernard Louis Dit Picard (WO 00/76384 where US 6998360 is relied upon as a translation of WO document) in view of Rearick et al. (US 2002/0064639).

Claims 21 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bigot (EP 0826811) in view of Bernard Louis Dit Picard (WO 00/76384 where US 6998360 is relied upon as a translation of WO document).

The present Application (U.S. Serial No. 10/574,126) has an international filing date of September 30, 2004, which has a priority date of October 2, 2003.

For applications filed on or after November 29, 1999, this rejection may be overcome by showing that the subject matter of the reference and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. See 35 U.S.C. 103 (c), MPEP 706.02(1)(1) and 706.02(1)(2). As noted in the clear and conspicuous statement below, Application serial number 10/574,126 and WO 00/76384 (U.S. equivalent is U.S. 6,998,360) were, at the time the invention of Application serial number 10/574,126 was made, subject to an obligation of assignment to Georgia-Pacific France. Therefore, Bernard Louis Dit Picard (WO 00/76384) is now disqualified as prior art and must not be used in a 35 U.S.C. 103(a) obviousness rejection. Accordingly, the various rejections of Claims 21-42 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

STATEMENT CONCERNING COMMON OWNERSHIP

Application serial number 10/574,126 and WO 00/76384 (U.S. equivalent is U.S. 6,998,360) were, at the time the invention of Application serial number 10/574,126 was made, subject to an obligation of assignment to Georgia-Pacific France.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicants' attorney hereby authorizes that such fees be charged to Deposit Account No. 10-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 26, 2008

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